



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

DIRK KEMPTHORNE – Governor
KARL B. KURTZ – Director

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
450 West State Street, 10th Floor
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0036
PHONE 208-334-5625
FAX 208-334-5926

NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Tom Shanahan
208-334-0668**

Board of Health and Welfare Meets in Boise May 21

The Idaho Board of Health and Welfare will meet in Boise next week to review temporary and pending rules that affect reportable diseases, emergency medical services and payments to foster parents.

The Board will meet on Friday, May 21, at the Pete T. Cenarrusa Building, 450 West State, in the 10th floor conference room. The Board will hold a work session from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., with the Board meeting convening at 9:45 a.m.

The rules going before the board for adoption include adding Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), West Nile virus and Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) to reportable diseases this year. TSEs include Mad Cow disease and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob.

Medicaid Administrator David Rogers also will update the Board on the progress of expanding coverage in the Children's Health Insurance Program. The 2004 Legislature approved expanding the medical insurance program to include more children from low-income families. The expanded program is scheduled to begin July 1.

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(Editors: For more information, contact Tom Shanahan at 208-334-0668.)